

Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Committee
Meeting Minutes for June 28, 2000
Frostburg, MD

A. Introductions

present: Jake Echenrode (*NRCS, PA*), Marin Robenhorst (*University of Maryland*), Al Rizzo (*U.S. FWS, Annapolis*), Carl Robinette (*NRCS, MD*), Ralph Spagnolo (*EPA, Region III*), Ronnie Taylor (*NRCS, NJ*), Jeff Thompson (*MDE, Annapolis*), Lenore Vasilas (*ACE, Baltimore*), Bruce Vasilas (*University of Delaware*), Paul Minkin (*ACE, Baltimore*), John Galbraith (*Virginia Tech*), Audrey Liu (*EPA intern*), Artika Ragan (*EPA intern*).

B. Review of Agenda - Ralph

Updating directory. Some e-mails were missing. Those in attendance made corrections on one hard copy of the directory at the meeting.

Attendance. Those who have not attended last two meetings will be asked to leave and will be replaced. Corps reps will be given the chance to join the committee.

Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils Book

Website – red parent material, yellow

NTC from hydric soils

Wetlands Regulatory Workshop

Research Opportunities----> look at; fund

Guide to Hydric Soils in Mid-Atlantic Region

C. Books

There are 5 books left in Philadelphia. Ron has a box with about 25-30 books, and John Chiburka has extra inserts.

We plan on updating the book 6 months from now.

D. Website

The original contractor who was working on the website is gone. Notices need to be sent out concerning indicator updates. Have links for updates from the government page to the NTCHS page. Include changes for land resources applicable to region. Digital photography could be added to site. Delete F1 stuff.

Updated directory and minutes from the meeting at Virginia Beach and this meeting will be posted on the website as well.

E. New Books

\$5,000 from Wetlands Institute is gone. \$600 from DEP and \$18,000 from EPA contributed. Could find more money through MD (Jim Brown) and EPA. New England charges \$5 for its book. The cost of production for our book is \$5.50 each, and the binders are specially

made. Since it's on lithograph, may be possible to make verbal corrections.

By next January, we want to have corrections in for the updated version. There still are changes that need to be made, especially with changes done by NTC. A thorough editing process is necessary. We will post it on the internet and have everyone read over fresh copy.

Jeff suggested that we change the size of the book; create inserts and start all over with brand new binders, but Ralph believes the next 1,000 should be the same.

Funding - 1,000 books will cost about \$8,000-10,000.

Jeff asked if we should keep the diagrams in. Lenore- A lot of people do use them, and Al- it would be nice if we could get them in color.

F. User Notes

Must be completed. Sub committee (Carl, Al, and Lenore) will annotate. Draft ready by January. Ed Stein & Steve Carlisle will be e-mailed because need specifics from their region

G. Miscellaneous

Problems with indicators - F1 recreated; F8: flooding and ponding

New Jersey's Use of '89 Manual

New Jersey wants a letter to allow them to use indicators. Letter to state saying that NRCS indicators can be used in conjunction with '89 Manual. Lenore- both are sound. Just asking to support use of them, not necessarily asking to adopt. Won't cause wetlands to be in more jurisdiction. Ron- we use the Mid-Atlantic. EPA needs to be the lead.

Monitoring Wells

6-8 wells (EPA approved). NY getting 2. Pull out those in Rosewood. Leave Patuxent's. WV might need some.

H. Follow Up From Previous Minutes (Virginia Beach)

Lenore went out with Rick Brown and Wade to one site that was saturated (redox regions). There were really good field indicators; came up with an indicator at every spot. Need to send out an unbiased person to revisit the site and document. (NJ)

Ralph- For future reference, we should document date, time, place, data, etc.

Lenore- underneath black surface – yellow. March F6 drop-out associated with soils that were not saturated. Soil features dynamic, constantly changing throughout the year

Marty- A commonly occurring phenomenon; can't pick a site, research it, and then forget about it because you're not getting what you want

Ralph- couple of people should swing by while at regulatory conference (Atlantic City, NJ). Send an unbiased person. Good to have as reference (data sheets)

Ron- If descriptions are put online there should be digital photography to go with it

Rockhall, AC, Thermont (Eastern Necks) Just descriptions

If it doesn't turn grey, it's not really wet; an "upside down error": depleted zone followed by oxide zone. F3 appropriate thickness and depth— > test positively for that particular morphology.

Lenore— some at Redwing met indicator because a little more than 2 inches

Al— sea level rise and retreat, affecting water table; should anticipate.

Marty— Document what's there

Lenore— Sandy loams not salt loams

I. Dates

June 19-23. Plant ID class held.

July 31-August 4. Full Characterization Sampling at DE and MD sites.

Contact Mike Wilson

3rd week of August— basic wetland course (basic reg 4 course, but not sanctioned)

Days Inn Aikens, WV Canaan Sites

August 21-25. PA and VA sites.

Contact Wade. Need all the help we can get.

August 25-26. New England Field Tour

Ed Stein; need reps. to go look at different things; red parent material

Purpose: meet once a year for a field tour. We want to create a formal

relationship. Interested in what they're (New England Committee) doing.

LEANDER and AL will act as a subcommittee, talking about user notes updates and technical issues, getting input

Soils Course in PA 2nd week in September

Basic Course in NJ 2nd week in November

One year from today. Niagra. Plan updated version, update and re-edition.

J. Training

Baltimore District wanted one in MD and PA

Lenore- have one in PA

Ralph- John Chiburka's e-mail concerning training for consultants

PAT's meeting: Chiburka wants us to put together training for the PATs. Train NRCS (train the trainers) who train consultants. 4 ½ day course (soils; second week in September).

Students, including earthteam volunteers under NRCS, may also participate in any of upcoming courses:

Intermediate Soils Course

Plant Identification Course

Wetland Hydrology

Basic Wetlands Course - August

West Virginia DNR building

Restoration and Mitigation Course
Template for mitigation site

K. Research

Marty and Bruce will both update their studies on the website.

Jake- update from Rick Day re: looking at purged water tables. Weekly monitoring is not catching all the fluctuations. Every 15 minutes shows more. A lot of prior research data wasn't even really cutting it in terms of catching all fluctuations. Issue of what time interval is appropriate for monitoring wells.

Marty- 2-4 times a day. Can buy used monitoring wells. Reconditioned with a 1-year warranty is \$695 (save \$200).

Marty- Red parent material: concentrations vs. concentrations AND depletions for TF2.

TF2 presently requires concentrations OR depletions. Is this accurate or not?

- Propensity of Soils to Develop Redoximorphic Color Changes (slide presentation)

Hagerstown, Myersville and Christiana Series are not problematic

Research needs for RPM

1. Evaluate TF2 for approval, rejection, or modification

2. Possibly develop alternate F1

3. Comprehensive regional state project

4. Instrumentation along carefully selected transects

5. A graduate student total cost \$85,000 – \$100,000

Grad student alone - \$25,000/year. Instrumentation costs \$20,000. Travel costs. Need someone who is interested and will "own it."

6. Hydromorphology of Anomalous Bright Loamy Coastal Plain Soils (ABLCP);
get rid of yellow; perhaps not even parent material.

7. Vanessa Stevens - studying hydromorphology of disturbed soils in the Copper Basin. Will begin work in August

Bruce- Mychorizae as indicators of season high water table

2 in.-depth = prevailing threshold. Extension will not be required for final report.

Development protocol => test it at different sites. If you see them, hydrology is not there. If you don't see them, does not imply anything.

L. Purpose of Technical Standards

Technical standards are on the website for review and comment

They do not substitute for indicators but rather how to evaluate reliability of indicators;
use technical standard to prove error in indicators.

Technical standard and definition of hydric soil are different; Lenore-there are problems with making it test negative

M. New England Hydric Soils Committee

New England indicators and national indicators should be the same. NY is represented by both New England and Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils committees. Chairs of both committees should discuss issues and send to members.

Contact should be made with Virginia's program.

AL-Write a letter to Jim Brown recommending Phil for the Mid-Atlantic Committee.

N. News from Last Week - Northeast Hydric Soil Committee-Ralph

Ralph - basically a brainstorming session. Mid-Atlantic and New England Committees: both groups work separately, but will meet every 2 years. The Northeast Hydric Soil Committee makes sure that the groups are working together and not against each other. Decisions are to be discussed before they go to the national committee. It's not really a committee, but makes recommendations to the national committee. Need to have reps attending meetings, rather than having joint meetings. Need to make sure what we say is hydric soil fits into the morphology. New England indicators are different from the national indicators. We should test some of them and jointly make recommendations with the Northeast Committee. We don't want to end up being an advocate for either committee; remain as a liaison.

1. Northeast Committee - e-mail list
2. Proposals can be made throughout the 2-year period
3. Develop a Northeast Hydric Soils Forum, like SWS forum, with Mid-Atlantic and New England members as consultants.
4. NT committee reps
5. Have reps at meetings

WE NEED TWO REPRESENTATIVES AT THE NEW ENGLAND COMMITTEE MEETING IN MID-AUGUST 2001.

O. Justification for research program initiative - John Galbraith

where research needs should go in NE; no expectations of document producing funding, but rather just thoughts. Must show that the program is in need. Justification for further study of hydric soils. Own programs will benefit.

P. Wetlands Regulatory Workshop - Ralph

Received some abstracts. Need recommendations. There will not be poster sessions because this is not technical.

Q. Hydric Soil Indicators (MD, DE, and VA) - Paul

Hard to identify saturated systems in dry season. According to '87 Corps manual, must have 1 primary or 2 secondary indicators of hydrology. Short-term fix: problem areas. Long-term fix: readjust indicators. Changing local procedures. Possible changes in JD. Potential ideas for research.

R. A Guide to Hydric Soils in the Mid-Atlantic

General chapters with parts pertaining to each state. First volume will be the basic book, and the second volume will have soils lists for each state. There will be guidelines for each chapter: template, format, graphics, citations, etc.

Template will be out by mid-August, and OUTLINES ARE DUE OCTOBER 1. ROUGH DRAFTS WILL BE DUE AT JANUARY 2001 MEETING. If you can't get it done, let us know. Chapters will be placed under three headings: Fundamentals of Hydric Soils, Field Approach, and Application. Bruce will edit.

Chapter assignments:

Wetland Landscapes of the Mid-Atlantic - ?

Factors of Soil Formation in the Mid-Atlantic - Marty

Formation of Hydric Soils in the Mid-Atlantic - Marty

Mid-Atlantic Hydric Soils: A Guide to their Recognition - Lenore

Identifying Problem Hydric Soils in the Mid-Atlantic - Carl

Describing Hydric Soils - Lenore/John G.

Wetland Hydrology in the Mid-Atlantic - Al

Ecological Communities in Mid-Atlantic Wetlands and their Relationship to Hydric Soils
- Audrey

Regulatory Aspect of Hydric Soil determinations in the Mid-Atlantic - Ralph

Use of Soil Surveys in Hydric Soil and wetland Determinations in the Mid-Atlantic
- John

Soil Microbiology and Hydric Soils - Bruce

Nutrients, Wetlands, and Hydric Soils - Bruce

S. Following Meetings

NEXT MEETING - January 9-10, 2001: Ocean City, MD.

June 26-17, 2001: New York. Native American reservation with red soils. Place by
Niagra. Poconos and upstate New York for at least three days

